

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to his attorney during an in-person interview conducted on September 7, 2004.

In accordance with the in-person interview, Applicant has amended claim 2 to include the features of claim 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 5 and 6 are now in condition for allowance.

The Section 103 Rejections

Claims 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on a combination of references. Without waiving the previous arguments set forth in its previous responses, Applicant has now amended claim 2 to include the features of claim 4. It is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is patentable over the combination of Chen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,940,456 ("Chen"), in view of Jean Claude, U.S. Patent No. 4,542,500 ("Jean Claude") or Humphrey et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,396,853 ("Humphrey") and Okamoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,09,442 ("Okamoto") for at least the following reasons.

As pointed out in the Final Office Action, neither Chen nor Jean Claude nor Humphrey, taken separately or in combination, discloses a "demultiplexer following [a] reception processing means." To make up for this deficiency, the Office Action cites Okamoto.

Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the disclosure of Chen combined with Jean Claude or Humphrey in addition to Okamoto would not be motivated to combine these references to arrive at the claimed inventions because the resulting combination would require Okamoto to change its principle of operation. From Figure 4 of Chen it can be seen that a single output is sent from a synchronous multiplexing unit 508. In contrast, Okamoto requires four separate inputs 111-114 (see Figure 8). The four inputs in Okamoto do not equate to the four inputs E1 and E2 in Chen because the four inputs E1 or E2 in Chen are combined into one output. Thus, instead of receiving four inputs, Okamoto would only receive a single input. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Chen, Jean Claude or Humphrey with Okamoto would require Okamoto to change its principle of operation in order to operate using only a single input. This is impermissible (see MPEP 2143.01).

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 5 and 6 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Chen with Jean Claude or Humphrey and Okamoto. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 2, 5 and 6.

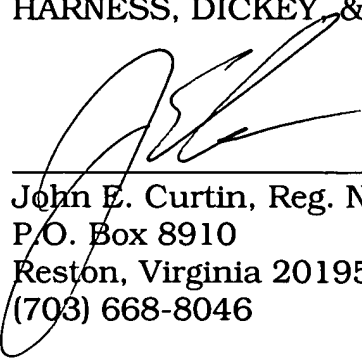
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number indicated below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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